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Approved For Release 2003/12/04 : CIA-RDP81B00961R000100180015-1

OSA 4024-64
8 September 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, OSA
SUBJECT: Balloon Operation at 100,000 Feet over Cuba

1. Stratospheric wind flow in the equatorial zone (20N to 20S) shows a wind reversal from strong easterlies during the late spring, summer and fall months to westerlies during the winter months.
2. The most persistent and strongest wind occurs during the months of July and August (most frequent - 075 degrees at 70 knots). Winter winds are more variable in direction than summer winds and lighter in speed (most frequent - 255 degrees at 40 knots).
3. Based on 520 observations covering a 3 year period, a wind direction at Guantanamo occurred between 61 and 120 degrees 49% of the time and between 241 and 300 degrees 23% of the time. During the period June to October the easterly winds occurred between 80 and 100% of the time.
4. Easterly winds can and do occur during every month of the year; whereas, westerly winds rarely occur during March, April and May and never occur at 100,000 feet in June, July and August. With this in mind, nearly 95% accuracy can be expected in 24 hour forecast wind flow during the period of persistent easterlies. Variability of lighter winds will reduce the forecast accuracy during the remainder of the year to nearly 70%.
5. Launch mobility is desirable with the most probable launch area in the summer being E to ENE of Cuba and in the winter WSW to W of Cuba. Positioning of the launch platform should be accomplished based on 24 hour forecasts of ascent/float altitude winds. (WECEN currently has a computer program which outputs wind/temperature for 11 levels of the atmosphere from 5,000 to 100,000 feet. It can easily be adapted for a project such as this and is completely automated. The Automation Branch is cognizant of possible balloon trajectory computation needs and has given thought to methods of processing WECEN data input.)

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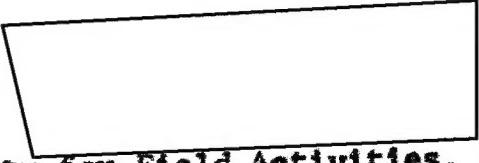
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6. Launch site weather conditions are most ideal during the summer with adverse conditions associated with easterly waves, tropical storms and hurricanes possible during the months of July through December. September experiences the maximum number of storms which affect the area surrounding Cuba.

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Deputy for Field Activities, OSA

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WS/OSA 

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